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Deputy Chief, Economic Research Area, ORR

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Chief, Materials Division, ORR

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Civilian specialized reserves  
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1. We find it rather difficult to generate any enthusiasm for this proposal anywhere in the Division, including this office. The idea of a reserve -- fully cleared, trained, and ready to work -- is, of course, an attractive one in principle. We cannot escape the feeling, however, that any consideration of such a reserve at this time would be in a complete vacuum.

2. The statement of basic requirements for employment is in itself a formable one. My reaction, shared by key personnel in the Division, is that the recruiting problem would be well-nigh unsurmountable.

3. If a reserve program were undertaken for ERA we would suggest that the reserve component be a general reserve component for ERA as a whole, or at the very least for individual divisions as a whole, and that it not attempt to find specific people for specific slots in specific branches. That is, we should check to find people with general competence to do economic research, without reference to specific subject matter fields, so that we secure the maximum flexibility for the future contingency for which we are planning, but about the impact of which we know little and about which we can guess very little more.

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